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Ironclaw

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state is rooted in hierarchical, elitist, and corporatistic values derived from the sixteenth-century tradition of neo-scholasticism. More specifically, he asserts that since the Latin American democratic traditions have been based on Thomistic and Rousseauian ideals, the region's constitutional practices have resulted in centralized, organic, and corporatistic structures designed to carry out "the great and glorious ends of government." By contrast, the North American constitutional norms have been based on Lockean, Madisonian, and Jeffersonian principles that have fostered radically different governmental structures based on consent, majority rule, separation of powers, and checks and balances. Wiarda observes that while the North American emphasis on process and constitutional procedures has resulted in pragmatic, prosaic decision making, the U.S. regime has been stable and durable. But the failure of Latin American regimes to give sufficient attention to constitutional decision-making procedures has led to more rigid and fragile regimes.

Wiarda argues that U.S. policy of trying to replicate in Latin America Westminster-style democratic practice has been misguided and ineffective, reflecting at best a limited understanding of the region's history and traditions, or at worst a profound hostility to it. While he correctly questions the wisdom of implementing policies that superimpose values and traditions on foreign countries, Wiarda's analysis would have been more credible had he outlined strategies that would advance the consolidation of Latin American democracy without neglecting the region's distinctive cultural

and historical traditions. If U.S. insistence on competitive elections is not the only road to democratic government, how should the United States attempt to encourage and sustain the consolidation of democratic systems? We can agree with Wiarda that U.S. policy makers need to be informed about the region's values, traditions, and cultural norms, and to pursue U.S. interests with sensitivity and nuance. But having recognized the need for an informed and sensitive policy, the challenge for U.S. officials is how to advance democratic ideals and practices even when such ideals may conflict with regional cultural sensitivities.

"Latin America," writes Wiarda, "has a system of politics that, in many ways, is uniquely its own." Persons wishing to become more familiar with some of the distinctive features of the region's politics will find many of the book's essays stimulating and worthwhile, providing penetrating assessments and critiques on important domestic and Western Hemispheric issues. While readers may differ with Wiarda's judgments and policy conclusions, they will find his analysis informed and his scholarship sound.

MARK R. AMSTUTZ
Wheaton College

Baldwin, Sherman. *Ironclaw*. New York: William Morrow, 1996. 265pp. \$24

Sherman Baldwin touches the elephant and describes it. But unlike the people in the famous fable, he is not blind. Nor is the item described as small or as

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commonplace as an elephant. Those are two of the things that make this book worth reading. There are others.

"Tank" is the call sign the new naval aviator gets from his carrier-based EA-6B squadron mates. But call sign aside, this is no clumsy anachronism. In recounting his DESERT STORM memories, Tank demonstrates a sharp eye, keen insight, sensitivity, humor, and a sharp pencil. If he were not a good "stick" he would not have been assigned to a Prowler squadron embarked in USS *Midway* on its way to war. The author recounts events, procedures, and emotions that have slipped into a dim past for most of us: the transition from flight school to the fleet, the first encounter with new squadron mates, finding one's way around the carrier's labyrinth (he gets some of *Midway's* tortuous anatomy wrong), first combat mission, first true love. The detail of this work flooded this reviewer with memories and emotions. Yet those who are not naval aviators will also find it fascinating and entertaining.

Besides its treating the commanding officer of USS *Midway* favorably, the book also attracted me because it is a look into the quick mind of a very bright junior officer under great stress. Except for the familiar cockpit of the EA-6B, everything is different, especially the prospect of being the target of Iraqi missiles. Thankfully for Tank and his many fellow aviators over Iraq, there are few of those. Lieutenant (junior grade) Baldwin, like everyone else, does not know that Saddam Hussein is going to be a pushover. So the tension is real. Add to that the difficulty of inflight refueling, a missed rendezvous

in marginal weather, and some terrifying night landings on *Midway's* small flight deck, and anyone's confidence would be rattled. Tank finds little support from his squadron commanding officer, whose leadership style is treated in unflattering terms. Right or wrong, the author calls it as he sees it. You cannot ask for more. In the end Sherman relies on his shipmates' good training, his inner strength, and the prospect of seeing his future wife waiting for him on the pier, to see him through these challenging times.

ARTHUR K. CEBROWSKI
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McGibbon, Ian. *New Zealand and the Korean War: Volume II, Combat Operations*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1996. 508pp. \$85

New Zealanders may indeed have a relatively short military history, but what the country lacks in extensive historical lineage it more than makes up for in valor and sacrifice. So too has New Zealand enjoyed an impressive record of official histories of its involvement in this century's major wars. Now, however, replacing the extensive multivolume sets that cover New Zealand's involvement in the first and second world wars, a more modest official history (like that in Australia edited by Professor Robert O'Neill) has been adopted to cover the Korean War. The work is also unique in that it is published by a university press vice a government printing office. The first volume of this history, *Politics and Diplomacy*, provided an excellent backdrop to the political